

## Thrips Biological Control in a Retail Greenhouse

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In the Spring of 1996 and 1997 a demonstration of the use of *Neoseiulus cucumeris* for control of WFT in a retail greenhouse was funded by the New York State IPM Program. The greenhouse was about 2500 ft<sup>2</sup>, and contained a variety of Easter and Mother's Day crops, spring bedding plants and perennials, and foliage plants. Most of these plants were grown on-site and moved into the shop from the production ranges. In 1996, bags containing 300 *Cucumeris* each were placed one per 25 ft<sup>2</sup> of bench space, which took about 30 minutes. The 1996 releases started late-April 11-but thrips were low (an average of 3/card/week). The thrips population remained low until early May, when infested plants were moved in from the growing area. By May 10, the average was 70/card/week. This was also a wet, cool, overcast spring, and the sachets became very damp; some turned moldy. Slugs ate holes in some of the bags, presumably attracted by the bran. A comparison of thrips populations as measure by blue sticky card catch is given in Figure 1.

For a printed copy of the entire report, please contact the NYS IPM office at:

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